

more than an exceptional education



ARGYLE HOUSE  
SCHOOL



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prospectus



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## Quotation from teacher

Argyle House School has a lovely, family atmosphere. It gives the children the confidence to tackle any part of school. We aim to provide an education that is tailored to each individual.



### Head Teacher Welcome

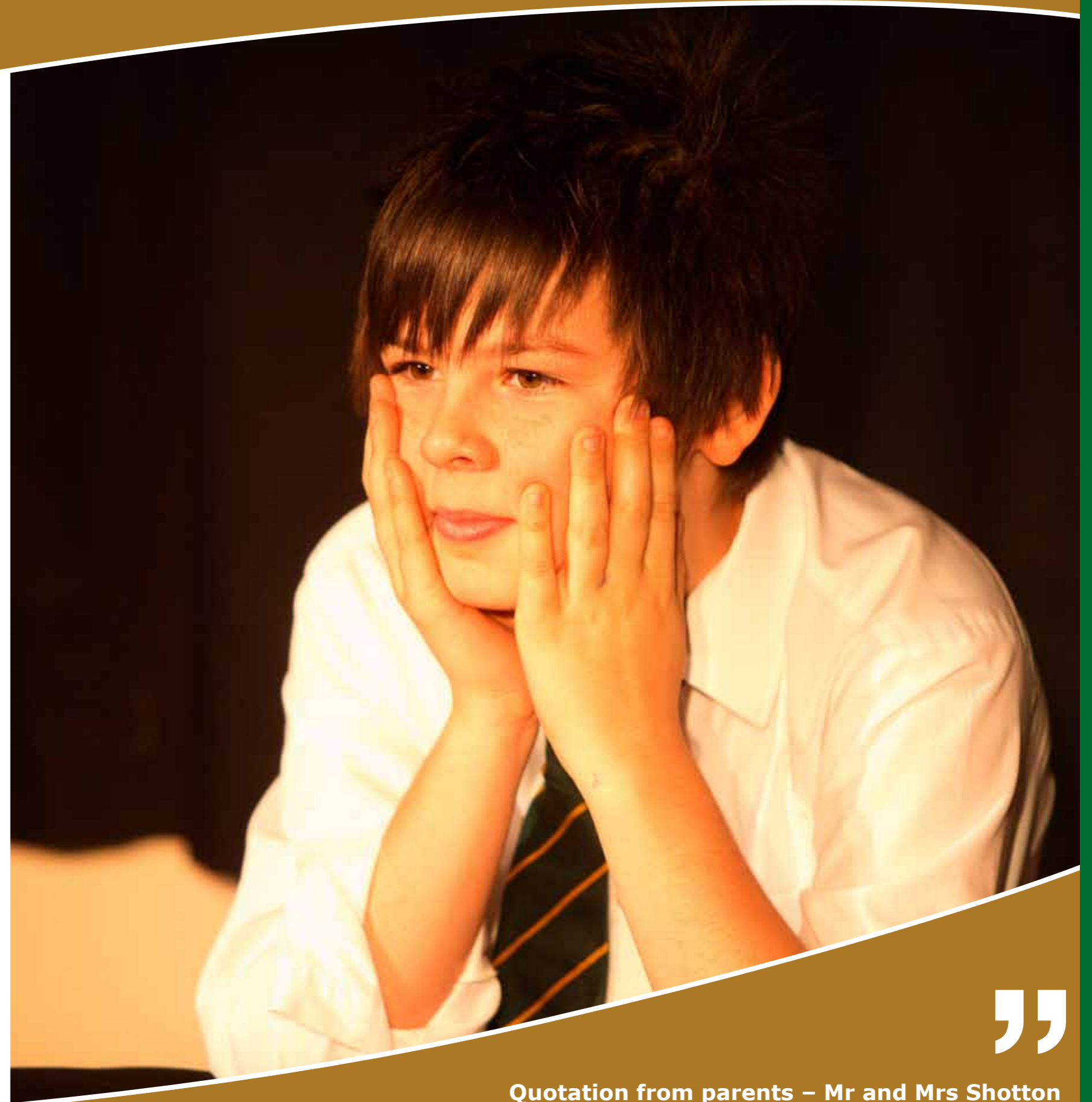
At Argyle House School, we have created a family orientated environment; this allows our pupils to feel they are valued and respected, and are encouraged to show their individual skills across our broad curriculum. Above all, our pupils are happy, which allows them to enjoy the adventures of childhood.

### Children become strong/caring individual characters

Argyle House School is a unique educational environment, where children come willingly to learn.

We consider the happiness of the children to be the key factor to both academic and social success. Offering the children a broad-based education enables them to develop and extend areas of strength and interest.

I hope that you will find all the information you need regarding the school in this prospectus. Should you require any further assistance, please do not hesitate in contacting the school on 0191 51000726 or [info@argylehouseschool.co.uk](mailto:info@argylehouseschool.co.uk).



### Quotation from parents – Mr and Mrs Shotton

"We now have two sons at this school; the essence of the school is the teaching staff and their ability to cater to the individual needs of our children, drawing on their strengths and supporting their weaknesses. The greatest testament, however, has to be what the boys said when we asked them what they thought of Argyle House School. They said that it was like a home from home, that the teachers were great fun and they enjoyed their lessons.



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## Quotation from teacher

At Argyle House School, we are small enough to know and care for each child individually whilst also providing a broad and stimulating environment in which your child can grow and be supported throughout, until they are ready to go into the world and sample all it has to offer them.



### Early Years Foundation Stage Department

In this department, we aim to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment in which your child can learn, develop and play yet still achieve all the skills laid down by the DCFS. By covering these various skills, and going far beyond them at this early stage, we endeavour to prepare a well-rounded individual ready for school life ahead.

This department is divided into two classes:

Swan Kindergarten Children 3 to 4 years old

Busy Bee Reception Children 4 to 5 years old

The number of children is limited to ensure a rich provision of time and attention for every child.

### Communication, Language and Literacy

This area will come through in most of the curriculum; specific are linking sounds and letters, final and medial phonemes in words and simple blends. The development of fine motor skills and pencil control, writing for different purposes, looking at elements of stories and developing reading skills are also advanced.

### Knowledge and Understanding of the World

We encourage an interest and curiosity in our surroundings, reflected in greater analytical and problem solving skills. Activities may take the formats of directed exploration and play involving sand, water and modelling. Examples of the topics covered are: Pets/Minibeasts, Senses/Space, Transport/Growing Things or Jungle/Park.



## Quotation from student

Jack – We have a Halloween party, Christmas party, Christmas Fair and lots of other fun things during the year.



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## Quotation from student

Jamie – I enjoy the subjects like sport, history and creative writing. The classes are really friendly. There are lots of brilliant clubs. I have joined drama club, football club, games club and dance club. I enjoy playing games in speech and drama lessons, too.



### Daily Routines

These are broken down into activities, which are both motivating and readily accessible. They include aspects of developmental education, and a mixture of play, tasks, games and visits (where appropriate) to a dentist, a police station and the other local environments.

### Visits

These are undertaken at least once a term and are used to enhance the curriculum, as well as to further the understanding of active young minds. Examples of these are: Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust, Blue Reef Centre, Butterfly World and Preston Park.

### Personal, Social and Emotional Development

These skills are developed to enable the child to recognise and appreciate the need to conform to accepted social standards by encouraging daily routines, sharing good manners and looking at how we deal with our feelings. This program is co-ordinated with the Reception class.



## Quotation from parents – Mr and Mrs Warrener

Firstly, we were really impressed with the academic results for the school but it was just as important that we had the right environment for our children.

During our tour of the school, it was evident that the environment created by the Head Teacher and staff at the school was one of discipline and respect for each other. There is a real family atmosphere running through the school and this provides for a great environment in which to develop and nurture the children.



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## Quotation from teacher

Argyle House School is a friendly and academic environment where students learn, thrive and enjoy discovery.



### Infant Department

Children pass from the Kindergarten to Reception with comparative ease, because they spend several hours each week with the children from Reception class for various aspects of the curriculum.

Reception is the first class of the main school, but also the last class in the Early Years Foundation Stage Department; close links with parents are still maintained and in this class the children follow the Early Learning Goals connected to the Early Years Foundation Stage. With the small class sizes and family environment that is created, the children go beyond the skills set down by the Government. This is the case for reading, mathematical and scientific skills. The activities are designed to be fun, to further enhance the learning ability of each child; these are reinforced by practical tasks.

There are two further classes in this department; they enjoy a rich and broad curriculum emphasising that education can be fun and enriching the family environment created within the school.

Mathematics, English and reading are approached very much on an individual basis whereas Science and Personal, Social, Health Education are based on personal experiences and development. Sharing and caring are encouraged qualities, which are further enhanced by visits from various professionals, as well as by visits to the local attractions in the area.



## Quotation from student

Hannah – The lessons in class at school are exciting. I think that school has lots of things to play with in the yard. I like all the activities. I think they are great as well as the trips. I like all the teachers, I think that they are sometimes funny.





## Quotation from teacher

Teaching children who enjoy learning, and having parents who are so supportive, makes my job so much more enjoyable.



### Infant Department

Music, ICT, Geography and History play important parts in the curriculum and in the daily activities of the classroom. Percussion instruments are introduced within this department. Overall, the aim is to develop the children's self-confidence and academic abilities, ready for the new challenges in the Junior Department.

Drama plays an important part in this development, where shows are put on biannually, in conjunction with the Junior Department.

Physical skills are intended to develop large/small controlled movements. This is achieved through various music and movement activities, as well as through structured PE lessons, which are skill-based, and competition is introduced in small-sided game situations. The children, from as young as four, are encouraged to be water-confident and learn basic strokes needed to swim safely.

Children within this department take an active part in the school's Swimming Gala and Sports Day, both of which are important annual events.



### Quotation from parents – Mr and Mrs Rollins

We are delighted with the choice we made of Argyle House School for our two children. They are flourishing and the change in them is wonderful to see. The staff are all very approachable and the family atmosphere ensures any issues are overcome quickly and efficiently. As parents, it is our priority to know our children are developing to their best and we have found that at Argyle House School.



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## Quotation from teacher

At Argyle House School, we believe that the welfare of each individual child is important, because it is when children feel safe and secure in their environment that they can develop their gifts and talents to the full.



### Junior Department

Throughout the Junior Department, children are encouraged to reach their potential through hard work and individual attention from their class teacher.

There is a special emphasis placed on English, Mathematics and Information Technology, within a broad and balanced curriculum.

Class sizes are kept small so that children receive the very best in teaching attention and to create a very friendly atmosphere, a combination which provides every child with the opportunity to succeed.

In Mathematics, the emphasis is on a mixed approach with traditional and modern techniques used, where children are taught to their own abilities. Within English lessons, children are encouraged to confidently express themselves in both speaking and writing, but are also reminded of the importance of accurate grammar and punctuation. All children have access to a Science laboratory and its equipment to investigate and question scientific topics covered within the department. The children also cover a wide range of topics to prepare them for the Senior Department.



## Quotation from student

Matthew – I like coming to Argyle House School because I like the teachers and they do nice things. I like the lessons because they are very good and funny.



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## Quotation parents – Mr and Mrs Shaw

Our children are thriving and flourishing in a positive atmosphere where children want to learn and are encouraged and supported to do so.



### Junior Department

Information Technology is taught to all children, either in the classrooms, which are equipped with their own computers, or in a specially designed Infant/Junior Computer Suite where every child has his/her own PC using the latest Microsoft Software. Here, children learn fundamental computer skills and use various programs to reinforce the concepts learned in the classroom.

French is taught from Year 3, with the emphasis on oral skills, colours, numbers, and simple phrases. Speech and Drama can be undertaken at this age group, where many children enjoy success in both regional and national competitions.

Within History and Geography, many topics are covered in the form of projects, where children are encouraged to research information, under the guidance of their classroom teacher.

Art has an important place within the Junior Department, with many pieces of excellent children's work recognised by display throughout the school.

Sport plays a major role, where the children have use of the sports hall and the playing fields every week. Skills are taught within lessons and the children are encouraged to participate in school teams. The U11 Football Team was crowned ISA National Champions for 2004 and runners up in 2008 and 2010.

During the academic year, children attend several educational visits to enhance the work covered in the classroom. Trips specific to this age group include a Field Study week, which takes place mainly in Yorkshire.



### Quotation from student

Will – The school means my life so far; it teaches me a lot. I enjoy the playground, especially the pirate ship. I like Art, PE and Science. We also get taught Maths, English, Geography and French. There's so much to do and I enjoy school.



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## Quotation from teacher

Before teaching At Argyle House School, I worked at several state comprehensive schools. This is the first school I have taught in where it is 'cool' to do well. Overall, pupils here are a delight to teach and are keen to succeed.



### Senior Department

The aim of the Senior Department is to encourage and help children of all abilities to fully develop their characters and academic potential.

All students undertake a broad curriculum during the five years in the Senior Department, culminating in external GCSE examinations in Year 11.

Subjects taught:

Mathematics, English Language, English Literature, History, Geography, French, German, Business Studies, Music, Home Economics, PSHE, Drama, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, ICT, Physical Education, Art.

GCSE choices are made at the end of Year 9, which determine the subjects studied.

#### Mathematics

In Mathematics, the emphasis is on a mixed approach with traditional and modern techniques used, where children are taught to their own abilities. There is an emphasis upon mental skills and using these to solve problems.

#### Modern Languages

French and German are studied, because competence in a European Modern Language is important in many areas of work today. The department is equipped with specialised equipment, and computer programs to support learning.

In Years 10 and 11, the children have regular interaction with native language assistants.

#### Science

All children study the separate sciences, Chemistry, Biology and Physics, within a fully equipped laboratory, which includes its own computer system and software. Children investigate scientific theories through their practical lessons, and these are reinforced by visits to industrial and ecological centres.



## Quotation from student

I like sport at Ashbrooke and PE with Mr Johnson. I like Mr Davies, when he teaches Chemistry and Physics. I also like all of the other teachers. I like the guitar club and chess club. English is my favourite lesson.



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## Quotation from teacher

Argyle House School provides a broad curriculum in a friendly, safe environment for the students. All three sciences are taught separately and with enough depth to ensure students can carry their studies further, if they wish. The emphasis is on practical work, in the early years, whilst in later years pupils are encouraged to develop their own ideas and investigations.



### Senior Department

#### Music

This is taught to every senior child, where every child is allocated their own keyboard or other musical instrument to allow them the best opportunity to learn.

#### Information Technology

The Information Technology room is allocated with the latest PC hardware and software. There is a PC for every child. All the children participate in ICT lessons throughout the Senior Department, but are taught beyond the requirements of a GCSE examination, to stand them in good stead for any future employment or university. This resource is used throughout the curriculum to further enhance learning. The internet is readily available and every child is given an e-mail account when entering the school; this is to allow the work to be sent home directly.

#### Drama

Work within Drama is designed to complement, contribute and support the general aims of the school. Pupils of all abilities are encouraged to fully develop both academically and socially. The family values of caring and respect, which are an important part of the school ethos, are also important values within the Drama Department.

#### Art

In Art and Design, pupils are taught to develop skills in order to explore new ideas. The children investigate different techniques from various artists, bringing in sketch-book work ideas and linking these in with display work.

#### Home Economics

This is taken by all the children to allow a basic understanding and knowledge of food science. This is only taught to the end of Year 9.



## Quotation from parents – Mr and Mrs Scollen

As a parent, choosing a school is a major decision. The qualities we looked for were class size, academic results and the commitment of the teachers. Argyle House School has all of these attributes and more, which creates an excellent learning environment. The school is of a size which allows the children and pupils to know each other extremely well, which establishes a family atmosphere. There are also numerous extra-curricular activities which broaden the children's outlook in an enjoyable and positive manner. We enrolled our three children in Argyle House School, experiencing both the primary and senior schools and have been extremely happy with the personal development and academic results achieved.



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## Quotation from teacher

At Argyle House School, there is a great sense of community. Teachers and pupils all know each other very well and the friendly and caring atmosphere makes the school a happy and enjoyable place to work.



### Senior Department

#### English

This is studied within a traditional, formal framework, employing a variety of strategies, including didactic teaching, discussion, group work, debate, TV and theatre visits. Thus, children acquire the skills necessary for their GCSEs and wider lives.

#### Personal, Social and Health Education

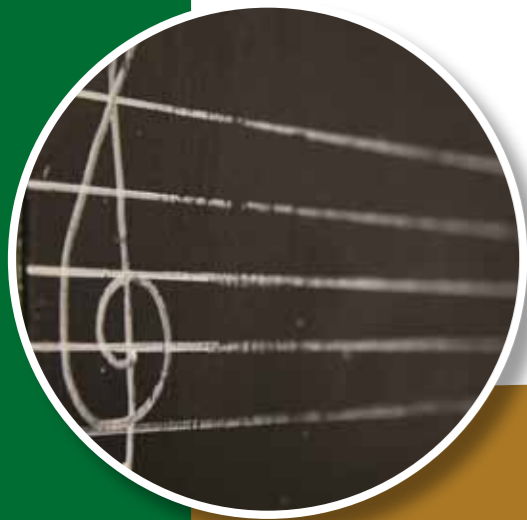
This is taught as an individual subject. The children have the opportunity to discuss relevant issues or design information leaflets. Many outside agencies help with the successful deployment of this subject.

#### History and Geography

Children learn to understand the consequences of social and cultural values in historical events. Interpretative and analytical skills are acquired whilst studying Geography. This promotes a sound basis for the knowledge and understanding needed in Year 11 for GCSEs and adult life.

#### Careers

From Year 10 onwards, the children participate in careers talks to help determine the occupation/vocation they may wish to pursue in the future. This is carried out by the careers advisor and Connexions. The process culminates in Year 11 with individual interviews. These are then followed up by parental consultation with the Head Teacher to ensure that the best result is achieved and that each child's 'Action Plan' provides a clear focus for a successful future. The children also undergo a week of Work Experience in Year 11, where the main objective is to gain an understanding of the skills required for their chosen fields.



## Quotation from parent – Mrs Mackintosh

Our daughter started Argyle House School when she was two and half years old. Now aged four, she should be beginning to learn letters and phonics. Instead, she is much further ahead with good reading, writing and numeracy skills.

The atmosphere at the school is warm and welcoming. The teachers really connect with the children and always have time for the parents. Head Teacher, Mr Johnson, knows each pupil by name and personally greets parents at school events. Argyle House School offers a high standard of education in a nurturing and caring environment.



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There are three terms in an academic year. School hours are:

Kindergarten EYFS	Reception – Year 6 Infants and Juniors	Year 7 – Year 11 Seniors
<b>Morning</b> 8.50am – 11.30am	<b>Morning</b> 8.50am – 11.45am	<b>Morning</b> 8.50am – 12.15pm
<b>Afternoon</b> 12.45pm – 3.30pm	<b>Afternoon</b> 12.45pm – 3.30pm	<b>Afternoon</b> 1.15pm – 4.00pm

Before and after school hours supervision is available for all departments. Morning from 8.00am onwards. After school until 6.00pm.

## Sport, Pastoral Care and Extra-Curricular Activities

### Sport

Sport is enjoyed by every child, where the child takes part in skill-based lessons, and gradual integration of competitive, team games. Sports lessons are conducted in the sports hall and at our local sports fields, a few minutes' walk from our main site. Swimming is taught throughout the school calendar for children from 4 years upwards. The children have regular competitive games with other local schools as well as inter-house school tournaments, which run throughout the school calendar.

Two major sporting events in the school calendar are the Swimming Gala and Sports Day, where parents are invited to attend and offer their support at these enjoyable events.

Teams; U11 Football, Netball and Cross Country; U13 and U16 Rugby; U13 and U16 Netball; U13 and U16 Basketball (Boys and Girls); U13 and U16 Football (Boys and Girls); U13 and U16 Tennis (Boys and Girls) Cricket.

### Extra-Curricular Activities

These are extremely important in the overall development of each child. Activities take place during lunchtimes and after school. The clubs cater for children as young as three to the oldest at sixteen.



### Pastoral Care

Because Argyle House is the only school run by a family, each child is known to all the staff individually and cared for as if they are part of the school family. The system in place allows the staff to support and be sympathetic to every child's needs. The staff are always readily available for consultation and advice. The children can ask any member of staff for help, but because this is such an important area for the development of the child, specific teachers have been assigned for this role to ensure that this is sensitively managed.

### PTA

The school views a positive partnership between the staff and the parents as crucial to the education and happiness of the children. Parents are welcome to visit their child's classroom at both the beginning and end of the school day. Parents also help on school outings and are a valuable asset to many aspects of school life.

An active and flourishing Parent Teacher Association (PTA) organises a range of events, including yearly Christmas Fayre and Summer Fêtes. The PTA also organises an annual dinner dance for the staff, parents and friends of current and former pupils. Parents are invited to come to school and give short talks in selected assemblies. Carol services and school plays are also open to parents.

### Clubs

#### EYFS

**Department**  
Young Dragons  
Speech and Drama  
Dancing  
Art and Craft  
DVD  
Gymnastics  
Games Club

#### Infant/Junior Department

Karate  
Speech and Drama  
Dancing  
DVD  
Homework  
Drama  
Choir  
Football  
Netball  
Games  
Art and Craft  
Instrumental  
Chess

#### Senior Department

Karate  
Drama  
Football  
Rugby  
Netball  
Duke of Edinburgh  
Choir  
Instrumental  
Revision  
Magazine  
House Competitions  
Badminton  
Chess  
Guitar



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